

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01033 111045Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 HA-05 /018 W  
-----069225 111933Z /53

R 111000Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8650  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS MASERU 1033

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: N/A  
SUBJECT: PHELPS STOKES REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: USICA 00275,

1. MISS IDA WOOD, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PHELPS STOKES FUND, INFORMED THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE MAY 8 FOR MBABANE THAT SHE OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES TO FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES NOW IN LESOTHO. ONE NOMINEE, HOWEVER, DID NOT SHOW UP FOR A FINAL INTERVIEW AND HIS APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED AT THIS TIME.

2. MISS WOOD, ACCOMPANIED BY MISS MARY PRICE, ALSO OF THE PHELPS STOKES FUND, ARRIVED MAY 1. THEY WERE GIVEN A LIST, COMPILED BY THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL, OF 29 REFUGEES REGISTERED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. A TOTAL OF 32 ASPIRANTS, INCLUDING 18 FROM THE LIST, WERE INTERVIEWED BY MISS WOOD AT THE MISSION'S AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER. THE CANDIDATES WERE MOSTLY SOUTH AFRICANS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME FROM ZIMBABWE, TWO UGANDANS AND A FEW INELIGIBLE BASOTHO INQUIRING ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS.

3. MISS WOOD SAID THAT THE FIRST GROUP SELECTED WERE THE BEST OF  
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THOSE AVAILABLE BECAUSE SHE WANTED THEM TO BE "GOLD MEDAL" CANDIDATES. EIGHT OTHERS QUALIFIED AND WOULD BE RECOMMENDED LATER, SHE ADDED.

4. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO SOUGHT SCHOLARSHIPS WAS BELOW EXPECTATIONS, THE QUALIFICATIONS SET OUT BY THE FUND ELIMINATED THOSE ENROLLED AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND THOSE

WITHOUT AN "O" LEVEL ACADEMIC PREPARATION OR THOSE WITH DEPENDENTS. IN A RECENT CONVERSATIONS, THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 122 REFUGEES ENROLLED, DIVIDED ABOUT EVENLY BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICANS AND ZIMBABWEANS.

5. A BRIEF PRESS RELEASE ON THE PHELPS STOKES FUND PROGRAM WAS PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY AND BROADCAST SEVERAL TIMES ON RADIO LESOTHO. COPIES OF THE RELEASE WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED AMONG REFUGEES WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY HAS FREQUENT CONTACTS.

6. IN SUMMARY, THE PROJECT WAS A USEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES WHO ARE SEEKING AN EDUCATION. IT ALSO SET APART THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AS ONE OF THE FEW FACILITIES WHERE REFUGEES WERE WELCOMED AND ALSO ASSISTED IF QUALIFIED.  
STOKES

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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